

What is claimed is:

1. A railcar lid lifter comprising: a base configured as a palette adapted for fork truck handling, a frame mounted thereto, and a boom mounted to the frame at one end of the boom and having generally at the other end at least one fitting for engaging a lid handle wherein the assembly of said boom, frame and base freely stands on the base when not in use.
2. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the at least one fitting is selected from the group consisting of saddles, pads and hooks.
3. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a saddle or plug fitting on the upper surface of the boom and at least one hook on the lower surface of the boom.
4. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a saddle or plug fitting on the upper surface of the boom and spaced therefrom a limit stop between the saddle and the frame.
5. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein there is a safety strap whereby an operator may removably secure the frame to a fork truck during fork truck handling.
6. The lid lifter of claim 1 in combination with a fork lift truck, the base of the lifter being engaged by the forks of the truck.
7. The lid lifter of claim 2 wherein the fitting is a plug and the plug has an elastomeric covering.
8. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises at least one column.
9. The lid lifter of claim 1 wherein the end of the boom distal from the frame has a lifting shackle thereon.

10. A railcar lid lifter comprising: a base configured as a palette adapted for handling by a ram truck having a ram mounted to a moldboard, the base having having a frame mounted thereto, and a boom mounted to the frame at one end of the boom and having generally at the other end at least one fitting for engaging a lid handle wherein the assembly of the boom, frame and base freely stands on the base when not in use and wherein the base further comprises a collar extending through the base.

11. The lid lifter of claim 10 wherein the frame has at least one ear that matches at least one ear on the moldboard pf the ram truck so that a pin can lock the two together.

12. The lid lifter of claim 10 wherein the end of the boom distal from the frame has a lifting shackle thereon.